authority carry out inspection of manufacturing Units to check proper utilisation or imported materials.

Action under Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947 and Imports (Control) Order, 1955 is taken against the Actual User who have not utilised the imported materials according to the Actual User Conditions.

Import of Drugs

3071. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bulk drugs imported by various firms having loan licence under Actual User Condition during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what action Government have taken for post-import checks of such imports; and

(c) the details of such checking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) Import Statistics are compiled for items according to Customs Tariff Classification. Statistics are, however, not compiled importer-wise.

Actual User is required to maintain a true and proper account of the utilisation of imported goods in the proforma prescribed. The Actual User shall be required on demand to produce the accounts and all registers of receipts, consumption and utilisation of imported materials maintained by him, to the licencing authority or sponsoring or any other Government Authority authorised by the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports to inspect or verify them. The licensing authority and sponsoring authority carry out inspection of manufacturing Units to check proper utilisation or imported materials.

Action under Imports & Exports (Control) Act, 1947 and Imports (Control) Order, 1955 is taken against the Actual User who have not utilised the imported materials according to the Actual User Conditions.

Import of Cineraria Maritima

3072. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1099 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th September, 1991 and state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 13th February, 1992 under the caption "Return of a banned drug";

(b) when the product was allowed to be imported and what is the difference in the composition of active ingredients of the product before and after 1989; and

(c) the reasons for not applying mandatory provisions of Homoepathic Pharmacopoeia on both the products and whether product report before 1989 was subjected to tests of Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) The news item in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 13-2-1992 has come to the notice of Government. This pertains to Cineraria Maritima Succus/Cineraria Maritima eye drops, manufactured by Schewabe of Germany.

Some consignments were earlier not allowed to be imported as they were found to be not of standard quality in terms of the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules.

Some subsequent consignments found to be in accordance with the

provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act and Rules, have been permitted to be imported.

Introduction of Vitamin 'A' by Multinational Corporation

3073. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Multi-National drug companies are trying to introduce synthetic vitamin 'A' nutritional supplements through our health programmes;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to the strong objection of nutrition scientists; and

(c) whether these Multi-National Corporation have offered free stock of Vitamin 'A' for distribution in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been implementing a prophylaxis scheme for the prevention and control of blindness among children due to Vitamin 'A' deficiency. The National policy on management of Vitamin 'A' deficiency, evolved in consultation with the technical experts, provides for administration of synthetic Vitamin 'A' preparation to pre-school children at six monthly intervals.

Procurement of Vitamin 'A' solution, since the inception of the programme, has been done from indigenous firms.

Import of M.S.G.

3074. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that monosodium glutamate (MSG) banned in many countries is being freely imported and sold in retail in small packs popularly known and sold as Chinese salt;

(b) the quantity of MSG imported during the last three years indicating the value paid in foreign currency;

(c) what are the names of main importers and users in the country; and

(d) whether Government have any plans to stop imports in view of its dangers to human health, specially infants and mothers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) In terms of Import and Export Policy, all items other than those covered by the Nagative list can be imported freely. As Mono Sodium Glutamate is not covered by the negative list, its import can be made freely.

No specific information about the quantity of Mono Sodium Glutamate imported, its value and the names of the importers and users in the country is available with this Ministry.

(d) As Mono Sodium Glutamate has been cleared as a safe food additive by FAO/WHO, there is no plan to stop its import at present.

Cholesterol effect on heart

3075. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the commonly held view that cholesterol has an adverse effect on the heart has been dismissed recently by the famous British Cardiologist, Dr. Donald N. Ross; and